

The Role of Deer in TB Transmission

Deer can transmit TB to both other deer and cattle.

However, the exact role of deer in the transmission of bovine TB is still unclear.

Deer are highly susceptible to TB. TB has been found in 5 of the 6 deer species found in the UK: Roe, Red, Fallow, Sika and Muntjac deer.

Over a period of 5 years (2019- 2023), 522 culled wild deer in Northern Ireland were examined and TB was subsequently confirmed in 13 (2.5%) of the animals.

Little is known about the level of TB causing bacteria excreted by deer.

Deer can also pose a risk for other diseases, such as Liver Fluke and Johnes Disease.

Controlling Wild Deer

For further advice and guidance on deer wildlife licensing in Northern Ireland, the NIEA Wildlife team can be contacted: **Wildlife team | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

Wild deer are unlikely to enter livestock housing and farmyards. However, they may be an issue at pasture. Installing deer proof fences (1 .8-2.4m tall) around grazing land can limit their interaction





Farmed Deer

Whilst infected deer may appear in poor condition, many will have no obvious signs of disease.

TB is a notifiable disease, any animal with suspicion of TB must be reported to DAERA. Where there are co-located cattle and farmed deer or camelids (llamas, alpacas) on farms, it is advised to:

- segregate fields/ housing as much as possible.
- consider annual private TB testing, noting that DAERA permission is required to carry out tuberculin testing.

Phone: 0300 200 7855

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

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